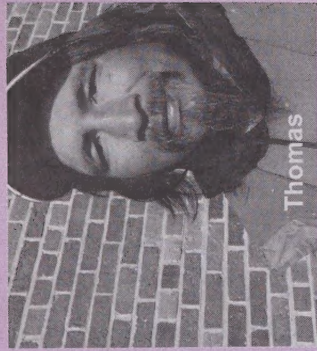




Glen



Thomas

Gone but not forgotten
Our fallen vendors.
 Since Edmonton Street News was launched November 16, 2003, 30 vendors have passed away. Many of our vendors are struggling with serious health and addiction problems.



Linda



Dale



Lucene

Death Watch

Death came suddenly, without apology or preamble,
 There was no bedside watch, no doctor hovering near
 No nurse, no monitor, no loved one to hold your hand.
 Death met you on the street you loved
 Without warning, on a warm summer's night,
 Placing a period to a life lived on the street
 That last day no more memorable than thousands of others
 A day spent talking with friends, drinking, laughing -
 How you loved to laugh, and joke around
 As though you had not a care in the world
 Living a life of freedom beneath the open sky...

"I wasn't there that final day,
 I waited alone at home for footsteps that never came,
 Tossed, sleepless, listening for the phone to ring,
 For a voice across the wire,
 But was met with only silence,
 The minutes crept by like hours
 And the darkness yielded to dawn
 But still no step, no voice,
 Only the emptiness of the room,

And the coldness of the bed at my side
 I called the hospitals, hoping you were there
 The police came, and as the officer stood
 Hat in hand, solemnly, on the step
 I knew without a word spoken
 What he would say.

I've met death before, in a hospital room
 Where silent as a ghost I watched
 Not daring to leave lest I miss that final breath
 Spectral as a shadow myself
 Watching through the long hours
 But for you

Death had come softly in those dark hours before dawn
 And sought you where you sat
 Resting against a fence

By Linda Dumont
 In memory of Glen Dumont who passed away on the street June, 2011

Alberta Street News



Volume 8 Issue 8

2012



Vendors pay 50 cents per paper

Art Walk
 story page 6-7



Alberta STREET NEWS

Edmonton Street News
Volume 8 Issue 8, 2012

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Write for Alberta Street News

The deadline for the August issue is August 18, 2012. Letters to the editor are welcomed. All stories are the opinions of the writers and may not reflect the opinion of the paper.

Become a vendor for Alberta Street News

To sign up to become a vendor, stop by the office at 9533-106A Avenue to have an ID badge made. New vendors receive ten free papers to get started.

Advertise in Alberta Street News: Contact Linda Dumont by phone at 780 428-0805 or by email at dumontlc@hotmail.com for our ad rates. The deadline for ads is August 20th. We are able to design your ad for a small

Mission

Edmonton Street News Society provides a voice, employment and social support to those who need these, and communicates perspectives dealing with poverty and social justice, by education and communication activities, including publishing a street newspaper

Values/Beliefs/Guiding Principles

We believe in being inclusive and encouraging
We believe that human rights are fundamental to living together
We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to earn and control their money
We believe in journalistic and organizational professionalism and integrity
We believe the public needs to know about issues around poverty and social justice
We value community and connecting with others
We value passion and determination
We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to learn, develop and use communication skills

Editorial

We have nothing to fear but fear it self

Many frightening and worrisome things have emerged in the aftermath of the July 20 massacre at a screening of the new Batman movie in Aurora, Colorado. The fact that the event was another in a dreary series of mass killings involving seemingly deranged individuals who took tragic advantage of the free access in the U.S. to all manner of weapons and ammunition is bad enough. But two responses to the massacre point to even more, and potentially more serious similar events in the future. An Associated Press story on the CBC's web site describes one response: "U.S. gun sales surge after Colorado theatre massacre." (<http://tinyurl.com/bslnzo4>). Gun sales in Colorado and other states spiked dramatically in the days following the incident, apparently due to concerns that states might respond with stricter gun control laws that might limit future access to weapons.

Colorado gun shop owner Dick Rutan describes purchasers' motives this way: "What they're saying is, they want to have a chance. They want to have the ability to protect themselves and their families if they are in a situation like what happened in the movie theatre."

Which leads us to the other response: the suggestion seriously advanced by some gun advocates, that the way to stop gun violence is with a gun. If one person in the audience at the theatre had had a gun, the theory goes, the massacre could have been stopped (and, it follows, if potential shooters knew that enough people carried guns, they would be deterred from similar efforts at mass killing) [<http://tinyurl.com/cgpptrr>]. This argument overlooks the fact that the Aurora shooter (and others who might follow his example) wore full body armour and began his assault by releasing canisters of gas that obscured visibility in the theatre.

The argument also invites the question whether one (or two, or three, or more) citizen vigilantes armed with pistols could have prevailed over a madman armed with an assault rifle capable of firing 50-to-60 rounds per minute and a shotgun. Trained and properly equipped special military operations personnel might (emphasis: might) have been able to respond effectively enough to prevent some (emphasis: some) deaths and injuries. The notion that ordinary folks packing concealed heat could have done anything beyond killing more people, not necessarily the deranged shooter, is ludicrous. And truly scary.

The argument for the deterrent effect of carrying firearms in public is undermined by a recent incident in Toronto. Two alleged gang members attending a block party barbecue got into an argument that ended in both men drawing concealed weapons and shooting at each other. In the ensuing gunfight, two people were killed and more than 50 injured. One of the dead was a young girl of the neighbourhood. The other was a man who may or may not have been one of the shooters. The fact that both men were carrying weapons did not deter either of them from using them indiscriminately. Can we seriously believe that armed bystanders could have responded effectively, and without contributing to the carnage?

In the heat of the moment, few people-even those trained in armed combat-can remain cool and respond effectively.

Which is not to say that we should condone, tolerate or accept outrageous shootings and massacres? Hardly. Those responsible should be dealt with firmly, to the full extent of the law. But we must also recognize that the argument from deterrence ultimately leads to a futile arms race that protects no one. When everyone has a gun, there will be more gun violence, not less.

Guns are the issue, but they are not the problem. The problem is the culture of the gun, the belief that the only way to ensure personal safety and the safety of loved ones is to kill-and, the logic inevitably suggests (as it surely did to the shooters in Toronto), to kill first. It is an ideology preached relentlessly in the U.S. by the National Rifle Association (NRA) [<http://tinyurl.com/ctgryln>], which sadly is now working to build a support base in Canada (with tolerance, if not outright encouragement and support, from our federal government).

The culture of the gun is a culture of fear and of anger, which is a predictable response to fear. Fear and anger are fomented by the NRA and, we must assume, the arms industry in the U.S. and elsewhere in order to support a gun culture.

The NRA and the frightened souls who support them insist we must stand up to violence with guns, guns, and more guns. They are wrong. We must stand up to their culture of the gun. We must tell them that enough is enough, and too much will lead us to mutually armed chaos.

And while we're at it, we must remind Prime Minister Harper of that simple, but profound, truth.

ASN staff

City to define a household

The City of Edmonton is proposing zoning bylaw changes to definitions of such things as group living arrangements and households. If these bylaws are approved then the next step would be to develop regulations to enforce the definitions. The proposed changes would use zoning bylaws, that have traditionally been for issues of physical structures, to describe a wide range of living arrangements and where they are acceptable. What is a family? Who should be allowed to live together and where? These are questions raised by the proposed changes.

The City says these changes are needed to ensure both housing and surrounding communities are safe and healthy, but the proposed changes are substantial and complicated. Some feel they would make it easier for communities to discriminate against certain people being able to live there and would encourage more "Not in my backyard" thinking by people.

There will be a public hearing to consider the amendments being proposed on September 10 but it would be useful if people with thoughts and recommendations about what is being proposed submitted those to the City well before the hearing as the final version of what will be proposed could be amended if useful suggestions are received.

By Jim Gurnett

All the proposed amendments as well as information about how to submit ideas to the City can be found at: http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/urban_planning_and_design/dwelling-household-and-congregate-living.aspx.

Paper sales down as summer brings out more solicitors, buskers, and panhandlers

As always, Alberta Street News sales have dropped considerably with the summer due to the increased competition on the sidewalks. Warm weather brings out buskers and solicitors including panhandlers. Vendor Bill Cunningham, who works in front of When Pig's Fly reported that he has found himself flanked by buskers, and Angelique Branston found herself selling papers side by side with a musician playing a guitar and singing. Solicitors are out as well, everyone from cute little girls selling Girl Guide Cookies to the City's Have a Heart-Give Smart car soliciting money for agencies that help the homeless. Vivian Risby, who works at the front of the Farmer's Market on Saturdays had to move from the west end to the east end due to the car. There are also more panhandlers out. Just across from the market, Rifle, a homeless man who frequents the south side and does not use the services provided by downtown agencies, was panhandling. There are also many people handing out flyers advertising everything from free services or meals to performances or new restaurants opening, or even political views.

The sidewalks are public property, which means that there is sometimes competition for space, especially in spots where there is a lot of foot traffic like the old Strathcona area of Edmonton. ASN vendors understand that they cannot claim ownership to the spots where they choose to work, because the sidewalks are there for everyone. But for the public, it is often a question of



Have a Heart Give Smart campaigners solicit funds in front of the Strathcona Farmer's Market.
Photo by Linda Dumont

having to choose which worthwhile cause to support - a panhandler with an obvious need, a solicitor such as the Have a Heart car, or to buy a street newspaper or a box of Girl Guide cookies.

By Linda Dumont

Edmonton Opens 24/7 Public Washroom in Old Strathcona

New public washrooms located on the NE corner of Whyte Avenue and Gateway Boulevard opened in Old Strathcona on Friday June 29, 2012. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week and are part of a \$536,000 investment made by City Council to increase the number of safe and publicly accessible washroom facilities.

"City Council's capital investment in the Old Strathcona area will benefit a wide multitude of citizens and over 4 million annual visitors to this vibrant entertainment and historical district that includes over 625 businesses," says Councillor Ben Henderson.

"The Old Strathcona Business Association and its members are thrilled about the new public washrooms. They will provide a safe and clean service for families, vulnerable people, and guests to the area. This is a step in the right direction and will enhance the Experience that is Old Strathcona. We applaud the City of Edmonton in supporting these efforts," says Murray Davison, Executive Director, Old Strathcona Business Association.

The location and design features of the new permanent washrooms were chosen after input

was received from a wide variety of stakeholders including the Edmonton Design Committee, Old Strathcona Business Association, Edmonton Police Service, Old Strathcona Area Community Council (members of OSACC include: Old Strathcona Foundation, churches, three community leagues, Old Strathcona Youth Society, Fringe Theatre Adventures) and area businesses, residents and patrons of the area.

The facility was designed using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. It was deliberately located adjacent to a high vehicle and pedestrian traffic area with full glass walls to enable "eyes on the street" and visibility/security for patrons. There are 3 women's stalls, 1 men's stall, 2 indoor urinals, diaper changing stations and 2 permanent outdoor urinals. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

Edmonton has 89 public washroom sites open at various hours of operation. Many are located at recreation centres, parks, libraries and LRT stations.

City of Edmonton



My Brief to the Slum Landlord

Derelict old houses with wood lice in trenches
Rents sucking remnants from the hopes of the penniless poor
The vicious cycle of poverty is perpetuated
The slums are in orbit
The urban rehabilitation lacks willingness
The landscape of the working poor is still deficient
The slum landlord's demands for "more" or "you're out the door" is incessant
Like boomerangs thrown in the distance, heedless occupants return to their meagre existence
You devour their dignity and ignore The plight of the poor.

By Daphne Raubenheimer

The new public washroom on the corner of 103 Street and 82 Avenue is open 24/7.

It will provide safe service for "families, vulnerable people and guests." If the words "vulnerable people" are interpreted as including homeless people, this is good news for the street population.
Photo by Shaun Giroux

Opinion

All communities need the opportunity to house those with special needs.



Jul 17, 2012 8:43 p.m. MT - The Alberta Court of Appeal has ruled against the McCauley Community League in its efforts to prevent a social agency from renovating a building to house clients. The group objected when the city of Edmonton allowed the Excell Resources Society to turn a building on 97th Street and 107th Avenue into apartments for disabled people that would offer extended medical treatment. The McCauley Community League believes the neighbourhood is home to more than its fair share of Edmonton's agencies and has been fighting to have social housing projects built elsewhere in the city. CBC

It looks like the McCauley community will be opening yet another assisted living facility offering medical care for persons with disabilities who will be living in an apartment that Excell Society is renovating on 97th Street and 107 Avenue. While this is

good news for the proposed tenants of the new facility, there is the question of why they have to open another facility in McCauley when so many neighbourhoods do not have the privilege of providing affordable housing for the members of their community who have special needs. Why should persons with mental or physical disability, or addictions have to leave the community where they were living and more to McCauley to find supportive housing? Should we not be opening this type of housing throughout the city so people can remain in familiar surroundings, close to family and friends even after a mental break down, or becoming physically disabled?

We may have come a long way from the good old days when people who had a mental breakdowns went off to Oliver or Ponoka mental hospital and were never seen in the community again, and people with special needs such as cerebral palsy went to live in an institution, and those who had mental delay were sent to the Michener Centre in Red

Deer. But we still have a ways to go to truly inclusive communities that accept those who face

mental and physical challenges. At present it appears that the only place many of them are welcomed, or at least tolerated, is in the inner city communities of Boyle Street and McCauley. As a resident of the inner city, I enjoy the high level of acceptance and the diversity in my community, but I would like to see that acceptance extended throughout the city. We need room for some housing in the inner city for the person who has no disabilities. It is discriminatory to expect only those with special needs to live here.

By Linda Dumont, Edmonton

So many neighbourhoods do not have the privilege of providing affordable housing for the members of their community who have special needs.

Alberta Street News is a published by Edmonton Street News Society. The publication of the paper is an employment program in that the paper is produced by volunteers and sold on the street by vendors. We have no government funding and rely on money from sale of papers to vendors, advertisements and donations.

You can become a partner.

If you would like to make a donation towards publication costs please choose one of the following options.

- ☐ I would like to make a donation of _____
- ☐ I would like to become a regular contributor donating _____ per month.
- ☐ I would like to place an ad in Alberta Street News.
- ☐ I would like a subscription to Alberta Street News. Please find enclosed \$30 to cover the cost of mailing.
- ☐ I would like to Adopt a Vendor. I will be sent information on the vendor to prepare a gift box that will be distributed during the Christmas season. (Let ASN know if there is a particular vendor you want to support if that person has not already been selected by someone else.)

Make out your donations by cheque or money order to Edmonton Street News Society, 9533-106A



ASN vendor Tim

Edmonton Community Groups that

Bissell Centre
10527-96 Street 780-423-2285
Inner City Pastoral Ministry
10527 - 96 Street
Lunch (sandwiches, fruit, veggies and desserts) Sunday noon to 1 p.m. after the church service.
Monday to Thursday
10:30 a.m. - sandwiches
Tuesday and Friday
noon - hot lunch for women
Friday 9:45 a.m. - sandwiches

Christ Church 12116-102 Avenue
780-488-1118
3rd Saturday of the month 5:30 meal

House of Refuge Mission
10339-95 Street
Daily -5:00 p.m. snacks
8:00 p.m. meal

Lighthouse Ministries
3010-119 Avenue
780-423-1277 or
780- 474-8086
Wednesday and Sunday
1:00 and 7:00 p.m. meal

Hope Mission
780-422-2018
Daily 7:00 to 7:45 a.m. -breakfast
Noon - lunch
5:00 to 6:30 p.m. - supper

All Saints' Anglican Cathedral
10035 - 103 Street
780-428-6323
Thursday 12:45 p.m., Lunch
Friday 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.,
Breakfast (November to March)

Marian Centre
10528-98 Street
780-424-3544
Daily except Wednesday
12:00 to 12:45 p.m. meal
Closed from the 27th of each month to re-open the 1st of next month

The Mustard Seed
10636-96 Street
780- 426-5600
Monday to Friday 7:00 to 8:00 supper
Zero tolerance of alcohol

Operation Friendship
9526-106 Avenue
780-429-2626
Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. breakfast
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon lunch
5:00 p.m. supper for seniors 55 and over only

Red Road Healing Society
4225-118 Avenue
471-3220
Tuesday and Thursday

5:00 p.m. meal
Friday - 12:00 to 1:00 soup and bannock

Robertson Wesley United Church
10209 - 123 Street
780-482-1587
Second Saturday of each month
5:00 p.m. meal

Sai Sadam
9619-101 Avenue upstairs
Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. meal

Salvation Army
9620-101A Avenue
780-242-9222
7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - lunch
Monday and Friday
83 Avenue -104 Street (parking lot!)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
9606 - 110 Avenue
780-426-1122
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
7:00 to 9:00 a.m. breakfast

St. Faith's Anglican
11725-93 Street - parish hall
780-477-5931
Thursday - 12:30 p.m. soup
Saturday - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. breakfast
3rd Friday of the month - 7:00

supper

Victory Café and Soup Bar
13411- Fort Road
Monday - 5:30 to 6:45 meal

Edmonton Orthodox Reformed Church
11610 - 95A St.
Info: Pete Wright - 479-1860
www.orcure.org
Thursdays 6:15 Soup & Study

B's Diner
100 Street and Whyte Avenue
Wednesdays 1 to 3 p.m. meals

Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre
15210-Stoney Plain Road
meals
Tuesdays 6 to 7 p.m.
Boyle Street community Services
7:00 a.m. daily - breakfast
11:30 daily - lunch

Please call Alberta Street News if you want your group added to this list or if there have been changes that should be made to this list.
Call Linda at 780 428-08065 or email
dumontlc@hotmail.com

Zimbabwe - Why Canada should care

Independence Day - April 18 1980 - marked a time of such great promise for Zimbabwe. President Robert Mugabe preached ideas of reconciliation and freedom for all the people of the country. The economy was in a strong position; indeed, many considered Zimbabwe the breadbasket of Africa. And the "international community" was generous with grants, loans, technical assistance and development funding and programming to help the new country live up to its potential. The country was pregnant with possibilities.

Soon, however, the promise of Zimbabwe as a model of post-colonial success began to fade. The promise dimmed slowly at first, after all Zimbabwe was somewhat of a celebrity state (particularly in light of South Africa), but later it later gained momentum. Some examples? Well, first, Mugabe turned against his political rival Joshua Nkomo and ZAPU; eventually forcing Nkomo to flee to London. Second, he sent his North Korean trained army to massacre over 3000 Ndebele people. Then, he switched his attention to the lands of European farmers and forcibly took over many of these farms, turning them over to his political allies in ZANU-PF. Finally, he openly and arrogantly presided over the creation of a culture of corruption and greed; a culture where his political friends became rich beyond their wildest dreams and the average

Zimbabwean sank further and further into the never-ending nightmare of desperate poverty. Farmers lost their land, workers lost their jobs, students lost their schools, people lost their food security, seniors lost their pensions and Zimbabweans lost their lives. Eventually, despite the considerable risks involved, a viable opposition party arose. Based in the or ganized labour movement and Zimbabwean civil society groups, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) offered hope that democracy could work and Mugabe could be removed from the presidency, and his political cronies voted out of parliament. The members of the

MDC were violently attacked physically, vilified in the state owned media, victimized by the judicial system and suffered economic marginalization. Still, the people spoke, and in the election of 2008 it appeared that the MDC had won the election. However, due to blatant political interference, Mugabe was able to maintain his hold on government and for all intents and purposes steal the election from the two factions of the MDC.

Sure, Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the MDC, was given the office of Prime Minister, but his role has proven to be limited. Mugabe and his cronies are still in charge. The real result of the 2008 election has been more of the same for Zimbabweans. Hyperinflation,

"we don't need to provide voices for the voiceless; rather, we must provide ears for the earless".
Terrance Ranger

brutality, refugees heading to marginal lives in neighbouring countries, cholera outbreaks; and the list goes on.

But what does this have to do with Canada? Well, recently, the Federal Government announced that it will be cutting funding to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Groups in Zimbabwe that are helping to mitigate the devastation brought by Mugabe's brutality will no doubt be affected. Indeed, the CIDA cuts will undermine the work of civil society groups hoping to promote free and fair elections in that country. Without this funding, they will be more limited in their ability to do this much-needed work. By cutting these funds, we are failing to spread the fruits of our democratic privileges, and failing to create conditions for justice in Zimbabwe. We are also limiting the chances for democratic change in the country. The cuts to CIDA, however, seem to be reflective of

the growing and troubling trend for the Government of Canada to base their decisions (both domestically and internationally) on ideologically grounded economic considerations alone. Yes, economics was always a factor, but we also considered humanitarian and justice dimensions to some extent in the creation of our political agenda. Prime Minister Mulroney did voice more opposition to apartheid in South Africa than either Prime Minister Thatcher or President Reagan. Now, it seems that we look at trade as being the prime mover in the development of our foreign policies - just look at our cozying up to China despite its dismal human rights and environmental record.

In recent years, this government has cut foreign aid to virtually zero in Benin, Niger, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. At the same time, Mozambique and Tanzania -which are home to significant Canadian mining and energy interests - have been identified as so-called CIDA "countries of focus," which meant they were among a list of 20 nations continuing to receive Canadian assistance. The current sentiment seems to be that where we have little economic ties or interests in most African countries, the Africans living under those governments are not deserving of Canadian assistance.

Zimbabwean historian, Terrance Ranger, suggested that we don't need to provide voices for the voiceless; rather, we must provide "ears for the earless". We must let our elected officials know that there is certainly a lot more to be considered than simply economics when we develop public policy. As mentioned, we are a privileged country- we need to spread the fruits of that privilege more widely, both domestically and internationally - justice and integrity demand it.

By Timothy Wild, Calgary

Calgary Drop In and Rehab Centre serving the homeless for 50 years

The old Calgary Drop-In Centre The DI has been a familiar face in the homeless sector since 1961. The DI was originally operated through a joint initiative of the Roman Catholic Diocese and the Calgary Interfaith Community Action Committee in 1961. The purpose of this endeavor was to provide services in the east end of the city to homeless individuals who needed shelter and food. In 1977 the two groups amalgamated, and the present Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre Society was founded. The DI is governed by the Board of Directors of the Calgary Drop-In Centre Society, an incorporated, non-denominational, non-profit, charitable organization. It is administered by a full time staff and volunteers.

Since its inception, The DI has continued to grow to meet the rising demand for emergency shelter and food within Calgary's homeless and low-income population. Initially, services included meals, sleeping for up to 20 men and women and no day-time services. Over the course of the next few years, space and sleeping capacity were increased. In 1997, day services were added and the DI has provided 24/7 continuous operation since that time.

In addition to the old Drop-In Centre (DI), satellite locations were opened in order to provide service to the increased number of individuals seeking emergency shelter. As well, to provide transitional housing for men who were looking to move from street life to restoring their place in society, a transition housing facility was acquired in 1996 (Centre 110).

Over the course of the following 3 years, The DI added three satellite Shelters (C111 - 1998 (no longer in operation), C2032 - 1999 and C2507 - 2001) operated under licensing agreements with the Province of Alberta and the City of Calgary. Operation of C2032 was discontinued in July 2009 due to construction of a new LR T line. On September 11, 2001 the new DI was opened at 423 - 4th Ave. S.E. This 107,000 sq.ft., 6 story building was designed to handle what the City and management believed to be the needs of homeless individuals for the next 10 years. It reached capacity one year after opening. The DI today

Today, The DI has the capacity to shelter 1,100 individuals a night. Due to the diverse needs of our population, we offer three levels of accommodation. In the fall of 2008 C110 was sold to the Inn From the Cold Society. Proceeds from the sale were used to purchase the Sundial building, a 119 unit apartment building in the inner core. The Province of Alberta contributed 7 million dollars towards the purchase of the building.

"This funding supports strong and healthy communities and is part of government's overall strategy to create more affordable housing across the province," said Premier Ed Stelmach in a press release. " The province is

pleased to be a partner in reducing homelessness, increasing the availability of housing while providing economic stability in communities across the province."

Four Levels of Housing

- Emergency Beds
 - " Riverfront Ave. - 3rd Floor
 - " Centre 2507
- Short & Long Term Supported Living
 - " Riverfront Ave. - 4th and 5th floors
 - " Centre 2507 (assigned beds)
- Affordable Housing
 - " Bridgeland Manor - Seniors
 - " Sundial

True poverty is having nothing to give

It's hard not to notice what has been happening on the news. How the strain on the economy is getting to people now. The waits are longer to see even your own family doctor, let alone the lengthy times one can anticipate in the emergency ward. I can't help but wonder sometimes at what the chain of events, and reasoning could possibly be for those who have resorted to violence, and robbery to get what they think they need, while at the same time the commercials and sit-coms are pushing the ideals that money, and brand name clothes, and eating in fine restaurants is The Life to strive for.

In times like these I have found my self turning more to my faith, and hope, even when my family and I are eating a mac and cheese and wiener diet, or bread and peanut butter sandwiches, we at least have food. Even with our clothes, if they appear a little thread bare, we at least we have clothes. In some countries one is considered rich if they have more than two outfits, and can eat more than one meal a day.

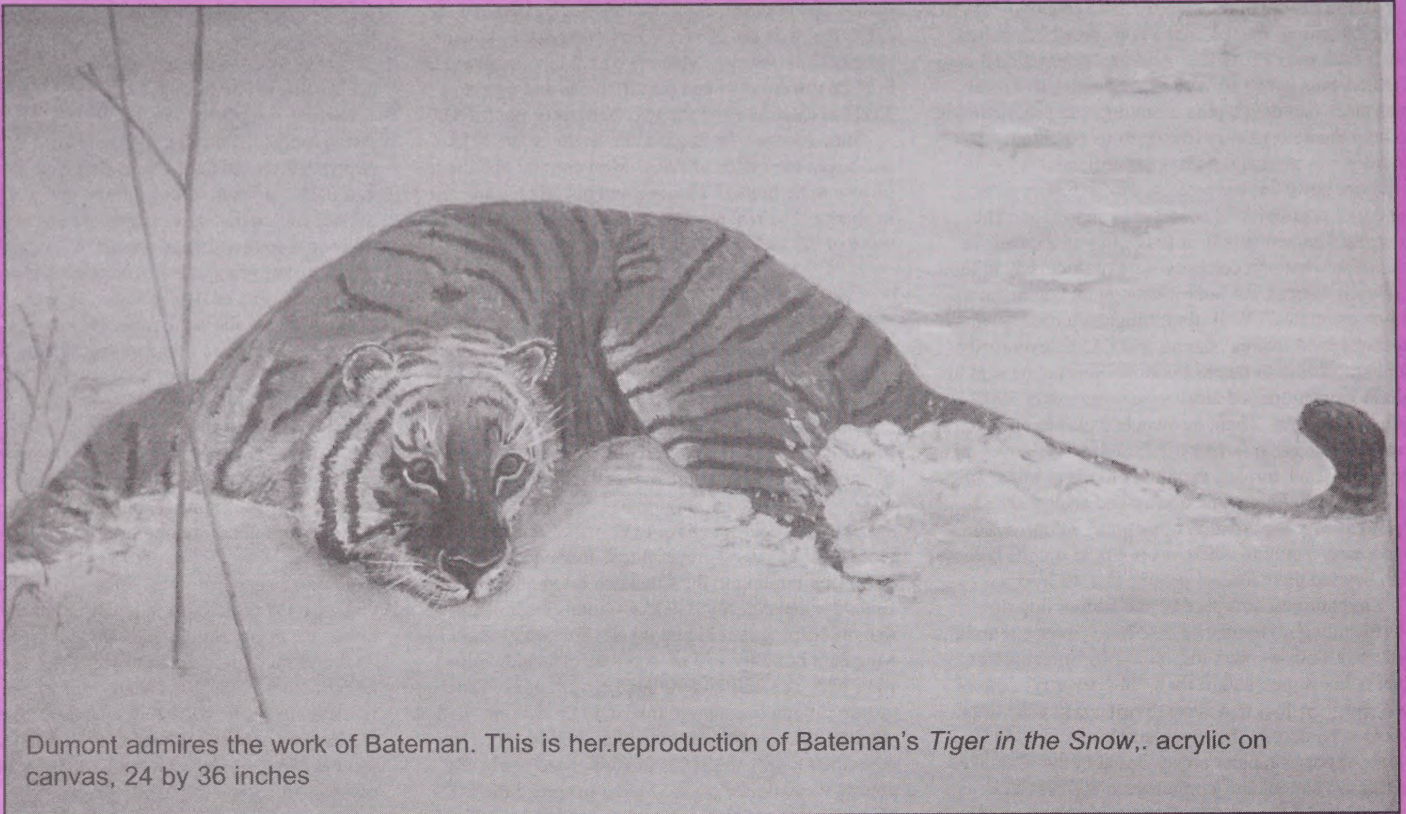
Our focus should not be on all the negative things that surround us, or on what we don't have, but rather on the good things in our life; those things that inspire awe and wonder, things of such beauty we are touched to our very core. Or the words of kindness we can speak to someone, or that we have received. Rather than reveling in the darkness, and giving in to despair, we can redeem the time for we never know if we will ever see someone again. This could be the last day we or they have on earth.

Though I have little money, I am rich because poverty is a state of mind, not of financial means. I knew a man in the past who made about ten thousand a month, but when Christmas or birthdays came up; for his own immediate family he only bought dollar store presents that didn't even suit there personalities at all, and for his friends nothing. He always said in his reasoning that he was too poor. At the same time for our Christmas' and birthdays my mother, even when she was on welfare and her whole check went on housing and bills, always made sure my sister and brother and I had nice presents - things that brought us happiness. The price wasn't important. We were surrounded by love, and we felt rich.

By Angelique Branston



17th annual Whyte Avenue Art Walk



Dumont admires the work of Bateman. This is her reproduction of Bateman's *Tiger in the Snow*, acrylic on canvas, 24 by 36 inches

People came out by the droves to see the stars on Whyte Avenue. No they weren't the ones that you usually see at the Princess Theatre on the movie screen, but artists who were treated like stars, as the public came out to greet and view their artwork during the 17th annual Whyte Avenue Art Walk held on July 13th, 14th and 15th in Edmonton. Each day the event started at 10 a.m. and finished at 5 p.m.

Kim Fordbotten, owner of the Paint Spot Art Supply Store, organized the popular art event. 380 artisans, mostly painters, but including sculptors, glass artists, wall artists steel welders and living statues, displayed their artistic skills in a huge area along Whyte Avenue, from 101st street to 107th street, including two parks, Gazebo and End of Steel Park in Edmonton.

Linda Dumont, artist

Our very own Alberta Street News Managing Editor, Linda Dumont, was out at the art event exhibiting a variety of paintings in front of the Varscona Theatre located on 103rd street and 83rd Avenue. The devoted editor and reputable inner-city reporter was notable for being the first to cover the publicly controversial "Sweat Box Incident"; the investigative story eventually was picked up by mainstream media throughout Canada. The mass publicity resulted in an investigation of three Edmonton police who picked up nine intoxicated Aboriginal homeless people, crowded them into an overheated police paddy wagon on a sweltering hot summer day, and held them captive for several hours until they were released on 82nd street and 127th avenue in Edmonton's Baldwin Community.

Eventually, two of the three officers were charged and found guilty of insubordination and discreditable conduct.

When Dumont's not working as that hard hitting reporter, she loves to get away from it all, escaping to the other side to the art world, using her skills as a passionate realistic painter. This was Dumont's first time as a participant of this art event. Her art display was set up right in front of the Varscona Theatre,

located at 103rd street and Whyte Avenue.

Her most recent realism art painting, a Bengal tiger, sat on display among other art paintings that were on for sale. The Bengal tiger retails for \$450.00. The colourful painting took her about a week to complete, while averaging three to four hours of work a day.

She'll attest that she loves to paint all aspects of life that define nature's beauty, Dumont said, "I just wanted to do it. I like life. I like painting life. I've done homeless people, because people are part of life, too. I do anything that's life, people, animals, birds, trees."

She is a keen observer of life's many beautiful things. While growing up, at age 6, on a farm near Sunnybrook Alberta, Dumont

"I can't be me and not paint. It's just who I am."
Linda Dumont

had a real passion for drawing the landscape around her environment. By the time she was in elementary school, the young artist was experimenting with egg tempera as a medium to paint to an eagle painting, which resembled an oil painting.

In an interview with Alberta Street News she described her earliest origins as a painter. Dumont said, "When I was young, we didn't have paints like this. We had little boxes of water-colours in school and crayons. I used to mix the water-colours with egg yokes to make egg tempera so it was more like an oil painting."

Her earlier beginnings as an artist, and a very talented one, would eventually encourage her to rise to newer challenges as a realistic painting into her adult years. The artist favours the following mediums while painting a diverse range of subject matter - acrylic, water-colours and pencil. Her unique skill has landed her some successful art projects that include working on the Memorial for the Homeless. For her participation in that project as a tile artist, she was invited to stand up to be recognized in parliament. She also did

illustrations for a local poetry book and currently has a painting of an inner-city panhandler hanging on the wall at the Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre in west Edmonton. Dumont belongs to the Mustard Seed art group. The Mustard Seed recently showcased art from the group at the Jeff Allen Art Gallery.

Some of her paintings showcased included water lilies and trees. She will paint practically anything on request on commission. Art themes could range from a favourite scene to an old farmstead, or even a pet dog that passed away.

Altogether the artist had about 35 pieces of art for sale. The paintings varied from flowers to boreal landscapes, mountain ranges, prairie scenes, paintings of the sea and even prowling jaguars.

Ever since Linda was a young child, she just loved to imitate life in her drawings. She has one simple reason for wanting to paint. Dumont said, "It's an inner drive - to be me. I have to paint. I can't be me and not paint. It's just who I am."

Her advice to aspiring artisans was simple, Dumont said, "Just do your own thing. Just be true to yourself."

Dumont's son, Shaun Giroux, was helping his mother out while keeping an eye out for her art. When asked by Alberta Street News about her progress as an artist, the young man first cracked a smile and simply replied, "She's awesome!" Giroux will be dancing in a Fringe theatre production and had spent the past week working with Dumont to create a giant man eating plant costume.

Sharon Hazen, artist

Sharon Hazen, 60, is an impressionistic painter. She's been a past participant of many art walks on the avenue. She paid a \$100.00 registration fee to participate in this year's event.

Her display stand of art works was located in front of the Scotia Bank on 105th street and Whyte Avenue. Her passion for impressionism painting started back during her elementary school days, when she started read-

brought out the stars in artisans

ing up on the Group of Seven. They were seven famous painters who forever changed the landscape of Canadian paintings during the post-impressionist era.

In an interview with Alberta Street News, Sharon Hazen elaborated on how that distinct group of painters touched her spiritually to want to pursue her lifelong passion for impressionism. Hazen said, "In elementary school, we had an art book, sections divided by paintings and from that Franklin Carmichael, A Y Jackson and Emily Carr who was associated with the group, but was never a member; this just lit a passion to be able to say something with colour and form and not have to use words."

When Hazen was growing up on the farm near Rosalind Alberta, the scenery there was quite similar to the types of paintings depicted by the Group of Seven. Since that time onwards, she's been inspired to want to paint in that style of impressionism, Hazen said, "I grew up on the farm. I was close to the land. It just seemed a natural subject for me to paint with pioneers like the Group of Seven and Emily Carr that led the way. That was a worthy subject matter. It just made it okay to express it in that matter. The subject of our own Canadian landscapes."

Despite her passion for the Group of Seven, Emily Carr by far was her favourite artist, who really inspired her love for the paintings of Canada's vast wilderness and other works depicting Native culture. Hazen said, "With Emily Carr, I felt that she painted the spirit of the land. That it was as important as the geological police report of what was in front of you, but rather what you could feel in her spirit and essence and how you could be renewed by it's flow of energy."

While a high school student, the daughter of a reputable farmer and oilman, Dick Hazen, who would often rib her about starving artists going hungry and would often suggest that the only way to prosperity was to get a good education, Sharon took to his advice, but still managed to hang onto her first passion. Hazen said, "I was also an art

major as well as an English major. I mean I definitely loved my courses and while going to school my father said, 'You'll never make money doing that.' So I went the practical route and became an accountant for many years, before I decided to go back to university. I thought now I can do what I want. I can teach art and English."

Her rewards for being an artist, are really about connecting in the human spirit, Hazen said, "I think art is a lifestyle. It's the way that you learn to see the environment around you and the way you feel the environment around you. When you become connected with the land, you feel oneness with all things. That translates from nature and the environment back into your relationship with humankind."

This veteran artisan has painted for over 40 years and has had her art displayed at various art shows throughout Edmonton. She also belongs to many art clubs. Clubs that she belongs to include the Federation of

It is a very engaging interactive event.

Kim Fordbotten

Canadian Artists, the Society of Western Canadian Artists, the Edmonton Art Club and the Strathcona Art Club. She previously had a series of B.C landscapes exhibited in an art show hosted at a Vancouver gallery during the Vancouver Olympics a few years ago in Vancouver B.C.

One painting that Sharon was particularly proud of was her painting inspired by her trip after leaving the Banff Rockies boundary, while driving her car east towards Calgary. It was there, while looking through her car's rear view mirror that she noticed a huge white anvil cloud soaring hundreds of feet into the air. She then stopped her car and took a picture of this incredible site before her eyes. While keeping this magnificent picture, she then later decided on painting this scene from the picture.

The paintings called Updraft, was one of

her many painting on display for sale at the event. The size of this impressionism oil painting was 11 inches by 14 inches.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being an artisan is when a passerby stops by to take a look at one of her art works, Hazen said, "One of the rewarding things about the art walk is even if an artist did not sell a piece of art, when somebody comes to you at your exhibit and they pick up a painting, you can see through their eyes. They've gone on a mental and emotional journey to another place. You have succeeded. You have communicated with the viewer. That's all an artist is ever trying to do."

Kim Fordbotten, organizer

Kim Fordbotten, organizer of the event, took time out with Alberta Street News while giving her impressive views on the outcome of this event. Fordbotten said, "We have some artists that have been participating for 15 or more years, so the setups are very professional. They definitely know how to interact with the public, so it is a very engaging interactive event. I was really impressed with how the artists were getting out their chairs and talking to customers. The street closure on 105th street was beautiful. We're going to do more of those events in the future."

Every year this popular annual event allows artisans the opportunity of coming out to hone their skills in art and have the chance to interact with the public while selling their art. Many artisans have prospered while selling their works and even have developed lifetime friendships with many of their repeat clients.

Thanks especially to the local store fronts who allowed artists to sell their art on Whyte Avenue. Since this unique event was originally introduced back in 1995, that gigantic flow of colours on Whyte Avenue still continues!

By John Zapantis

Sharon Hazen showing her impressionistic oil painting called *Updraft* while taking a break at Royal Pizza during the 17th annual Whyte Avenue Art Walk in Edmonton.

Photo by John Zapantis

"I think art is a lifestyle. It's the way that you learn to see the environment around you and the way you feel the environment around you."

Sharon Hazen



A Rory Story Teach the Speech

The Love from up above

Hi and Hello, Ladies, Gentlemen and all of God's children.
This is an introduction to God's newest kingdom.
I am the Dwarf man, Roar Gnomian the Great Gaugnome.
The King of every Gnomette and Gnome,
A Gnomette is the lovely female species of our excellent race.

Both the male and female dwarves in the Lord Jesus,
Beautiful brown eyes are never ever a disgrace.
Even in our lifetime if a dwarf just happens to make a mistake.
We know Jesus the true Saviour, will forgive us and never condemn us as being a fake.
For God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, Dwarves are always on their best behaviour.
So we honestly and sincerely do try both day and night.
To practice: good mannerism; which means being extremely polite.

Jesus really does have lovely shoulder length brown hair.
He prayed to our universal God, who created many different life forms on earth everywhere?
For Gods gift of all life Jesus the Messiah truly did care

Jesus walked preaching and teaching in a beautiful white robe.
Hoping his message would save the souls of both man and women,
On this extremely lovely globe

From a true Spiritual dream I can say this with delight.
The Halo of God surrounds Jesus and is the loveliest golden shimmering light.
Every child should know that Jesus loves, Jesus understands,
Jesus forgives and most of all Jesus truly lives. In the place we call Heaven.
Where every child; who is honest with Our Saviour, Our Lord, Our God, will be forgiven.

Now this is a peaceful warning. Which should not be feared or alarming?
Dwarfs are now surfacing once again on the planet earth.
When they are born they are not to be considered a little squirt and yes! It is a very good guess.
To say that all Dwarf's with each another like to flirt.

When, the female or male Dwarf's, fall in love.
This mystical power comes from the beautiful Lord Jesus.
Who loves all of us and lives in the great place called Heaven up above.
Jesus is everybody's, personal own best friend.

The End Thank you thank you thank you
And Yes! God really did bless each and every one of you

Written by Rory P Gaudon
I started this Story in 1992
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Shooters - What's happening to our youth?

There have been several violent shootings recently in North America, two in Toronto, one in Edmonton and one in Aurora, Colorado. I am going to compare the Aurora, Colorado theatre massacre with the Edmonton, Alberta armoured bank car shooting.

Even though the circumstances are not identical as far as people, places and laws, there are striking similarities.

Both killers were intelligent, Caucasian males in their early 20's who had aspirations to contribute to making the world a better place initially but their lives changed dramatically.

Travis Baumgartner had been bullied in school, lost contact with his high school buddies and started a new job in April with G-4 Security company. He had a fight with his mom prior to working that night. All of these factors influenced his state of mind.

James Eugene Holmes was studying for a doctoral degree in neuroscience at the University of Colorado. Anschutz Medical School. As of spring of this year, Holmes was enrolled in the program Biological Basis of Psychiatric and Neurological Disorders. He had been a highly performing student but hours after failing an oral exam, which was a key element of his Ph.D. program, on July 7, 2012, Holmes bought an Ar 15 semi automatic rifle. Three days later Holmes dropped out of university entirely. He was denied membership into a gun club because of his bizarre behaviour.

How does failure and rejection play into these deadly circumstances? Some aspects of academic failure could have influenced his mental and emotional state of mind. All of those things could actually make dormant schizophrenia emerge quickly according to Mann Oandazzo, a psychologist. I had a similar situation to Holmes when I failed a main component to my university program. I was totally devastated but fortunately for me I had the necessary support.

Both men had plans on killing individuals. Baumgartner had a message on his Facebook to pop people off. Holmes had a notebook of drawings of gun toting stick figure shooting each other. It was full of details on how he was going to murder people. He sent the book to a professor, who treats patients in psychiatry at a patient facility of Colorado. It is unclear whether anyone spotted his notebook until after the shootings.

Both men were able to possess weapons legally. They took the gun safety training course required for concealed firearms. Both individuals passed the course and the necessary background check because of not having criminal records at that point.

Both men craved instant gratification and noto-

riety. Their lives were chaotic and they were seeking fame through violence. Both men knew their plans and protected them well. Holmes had head to toe body armour, dressed in black, had a gas mask and a ballistic helmet. Baumgartner also had body armour and black combat styled boots.

Both men were able to blend into their environments. None of Baumgartner's co-workers suspected anything out of the ordinary until he started shooting. When Holmes went to the theatre he also blended in with other costumed individuals, dressed as heroes and villains. At first the audience thought Holmes was part of the special effects of the show because of the Mafia gangster squad shooting up in that theatre in the 1940's movie that was on screen. It was only when Holmes was shooting the audience that they realized it was for real.

Both men had references to the Joker, one of the enemies of Batman in the fictional Gotham city in the movie The Dark Knight Rises. Holmes

Both killers were intelligent, Caucasian males in their early 20's

brown hair was dyed a shocking shade of orange and he called himself the Joker. Holmes told the police officers he was Batman's nemesis. Baumgartner also quoted the Joker from the Dark Knight Rises by tweeting, "One knight she grabs a kitchen knife to defend herself. Now he doesn't like that not one bit."

I do not think there is any one solution to preventing mass shootings no matter where they occur.

Gun laws are very controversial but countries with less access to guns kill fewer people. Is there any logical reason why anyone would need a semi automatic rifle with 100 bullets that you don't have to reload. What legitimate reason would you find for such a weapon?

Here are some possible solutions to the problem. One: stiffer sentences on gun crimes. Two: gun and sports stores more aware of the number and type of guns people own and the purpose for having one such as showing a hunting license. Three: make guns safer with trigger locks and safe storage rules. Four: restrain the number and kind of guns people own. Five: ban restricted weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines.

After the gun registry was abandoned in Canada the Spring Sports Shop saw a big increase in sale of both restricted firearms, handguns and non-restricted rifles and shotguns. There is also an increase in the used market of millions of long guns in Canada that were not in the system. Many individuals decided to buy them since they are no longer fearful of possession. There has been an increase in firearm training courses. They are full every weekend in Canada and more firearm per-

mits are being issued.

Interestingly in the United States there was a surge in purchasing weapons after the Colorado shooting. Americans were afraid of a government crackdown on guns and Americans thought this was a way to protect themselves and their families. In this scenario more children could be killed if guns are not stored properly or if innocent people don't know how to use them as well as the perpetrators, who could use the guns on them.

Movies do affect people. The Dark Knight Rises is a violent movie. Perhaps the movie industry could create inspirational movies instead that can entertain movie goers. There is much controversy over how humans are impacted by movies. Real people in violent scenes have more impact than violent cartoon characters. The Japanese and South Koreans watch more violent entertainment than any other countries in the world yet have relatively low crime rates. There are other factors that play into this equation. The movie goer may be predisposed to violence as being an acceptable way to solve conflict in his or her life.

Both men were thought of by others who knew them as loners. Being quiet is fine; it's the lack of connection and accountability that can be a problem. According to a social worker young people like to contribute something to the world but have given up when adults stop listening - some at an early age. They feel helpless when their dreams are squashed.

According to a man who was abandoned by his biological parents and raised in twelve foster homes, he acted out in a mean and angry way trusting no one. Changes occurred in his last foster home. These parents were excellent role models that gave him unconditional love, grounded him and assisted him with choosing and acting upon choices for his life that were beneficial to his well being. Other solutions include mentoring youth at risk and young adults, providing easy access to resources for families and providing immediate appointments for those who drop out of school or make major transitions in their lives. Provide programs such as art, music, drama and humour therapy as well as journaling for those who are in crisis and can't verbalize their troubling situations.

Our young people are precious. As a society each one of us has a responsibility to enhance our youth's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well being. By doing this the young people will grow up to be healthy, happy and prosperous citizens. It is important that they reach their potential.

The time for us to act is now. Any constructive action is better than inaction. Don't be paralyzed by your fears.

By Kathy Reith

The seniors drop-in centre is the heart of Scona

The remodeling of older homes in this neighbourhood has taken on a new dimension. For the most part, the historical architectural styles have been preserved and modernism has not been detrimental as some older homes have been demolished to be replaced by newer infill housing.

The Seniors' Drop-in Center has been the heartbeat of the neighbourhood for many long years. It's "where it's at" for seniors who have been and continue to be a vital influence in the cultural landscape of this community.

These days, it has taken on a revitalized significance as it bustles with social activities that enhance the lives of those who remain in the neighbourhood or are transported there to enjoy the linkages with former neighbours

and old friends. To enjoy a meal, a friendly chat and so much more in order to advance this concept is crucial. These days, at the house on 10440-84 Avenue, there is an integrative mode as younger folks are teaching computer literacy skills to our seniors.

By Daphne Raubenheimer

Speaking about the unthinkable - sibling abuse

Sibling abuse is an issue that has to be unveiled otherwise the victims' numbers continue to increase through the code of silence that is so prevalent in families. This is an issue that affects every member within the family.

Mothers/Caregivers must make their children's well being their primary consideration. And whenever there is "any" reason to suspect that "someone" might pose a potential risk to their children, mothers must put their children's safety first. Failing to do this will cost their children physical and emotional health. Children sense of safety, sense of who they are will be lost.

Between a parent and a child, an essential ingredient is trust. Trust defines every interaction between a parent and a child. When a child is unable to come to a parent with their concerns because they are afraid that they will not be believed or they will not be protected, this is an incredible heavy burden for a child to carry.

Sibling sexual abuse can take place in any households where the parent is emotionally and/or physically absent and has dismissed all the red flags of what goes on, in her absence. The sibling that has been given a lot of responsibility and "power" could misuse his power and unleash his anger and contempt into younger siblings through physical, emo-



tional or/and sexual abuse.

Sexual Sibling Abuse:

Sibling sexual abuse can be very harmful. The victim can feel trapped, ashamed, helpless, responsible, and powerless to stop the abuse. The abuser may use physical abuse and threats to ensure that the victim will not talk about it to others in the family. In any sexual abuse situation the victim may also feel betrayed by the abuser. Siblings trust each other, and they may not expect the other sibling to hurt them. They may also believe that the parent(s) accept this behaviour because the parent(s) left the victim in the care of the abuser.

This form of abuse can be sexual, physical, and emotional. Abuse can happen between step-children, foster children, adopted children, or birth children. Usually the more powerful, older sibling will use their position in the home to abuse another sibling, leaving them feeling powerless, trapped and ashamed of the abuse. Children may not know if certain behaviour is acceptable or not: children have to be taught the difference. Sibling abuse may lead to emotional and physical trauma.

Because siblings live in the same households, the victim is usually a younger child; younger children are vulnerable as they are pressured, coerced and trapped by the abuser in the kind of abuse that could go on for a long time. This will be like in house terrorism for the victim/s.

The victims usually feel powerless to stop the abuse. They feel that they can not stop the offender, because he has threatened them, especially when they had tried to convey the abuse to the parent and the parent fails or chooses to disbelief the victim because the perpetrator is a great manipulator but also due to the convenience of needing him as a babysitter.

Victims are made to feel responsible, bad and the contributors for the action of the perpetrator. They will carry feelings of betrayal not only by the mother but by the brother and carry a shameful and guilty feeling through their adulthood.

Sibling abuse causes more damage than abuse by a stranger because of the issue of trust and forcible submission that makes them believe they allowed the abuse to happen. This also put the victims at the disposal of the perpetrator for as long as he chooses to keep them as his victims, they are readily available and the perpetrator is under the umbrella of protection in exchange for his services as a babysitter.

Victims go through hell at the hands of the perpetrator, older children who sexually abuse their siblings frequently abuse them in other ways as well. Persistent putting down, teasing or belittling in any way, making these children to fear them in order to keep his "secret". It is my opinion that children that disrespect their sibling through verbal, emotional and/or physi-

cal abuse, if they have the opportunity, will sexually abuse them also. This is a matter of anger and control. While there are complex factors involved in children/young adults sexually molesting other children, the following are influences that encourage children to create their own victims.

Family Violence

Witnessing family violence teaches children how to treat others. Children tend to copy what they have seen in order to deal with their pent up feelings.

Pornography

Children allowed to watch pornography may imitate sexual behaviour. Pornography in any form affects children's minds

Sexual Abuse

Children that have been molested may create a circle of abuse in order to reenact the acts that were committed against them. This is what is called "second hand abuse". From victims they became the perpetrators and they have crossed the invisible threshold from adolescence to adulthood they could be classified as sex offenders.

Neglect

When children are neglected, either physical and/or emotionally, they will experiment with drugs and alcohol and they might engage in a full range of sexual activities. Part of their behaviour is a cry from the emotional isolation that they are experiencing.

Lack of Values

In orders for children to establish a personal identification they have to be taught about values, about boundaries, about good touches, bad touches, about emotions, about feelings and about respect and personal responsibility, etc.

As parents our actions and inactions have a powerful way of developing every member of our families into responsible and caring adults. Children must be taught through the example of their caregivers to respect each other and parents must have a vigilant spirit in order to ensure they their children are respected in every way, verbally, physically and emotionally. Children should not be abused and humiliated in any way. A family should be the stronghold where children feel safety, unconditional love and acceptance.

To realize that they are children that are being sexually molested within their own homes is heart-breaking and very concerning. Mothers/caregivers, be vigilant and if you realize or if a victim tells you that this is going on, please believe them and protect them. Start by admitting to yourself that sibling abuse might be happening in your family; get help and never allow people to discourage you from going to the authorities with your findings. As a parent you might feel overwhelmed and scared when you realize that one of your children is capable of molesting another child. You have to be alert and present in the lives of your children and never, never tell the victim that he/she is lying as this will be devastating. Believe the victims. They rarely invent sexual histories of sexual abuse to get a brother or a sister in trouble, but it is devastating when they have to carry the secret of sexual abuse because the person that they thought they could trust, the mother or caregiver, does not believe them. In order for a family to thrive there has to be respect and trust as a foundation. We must make our households a safe heaven where children can develop into the incredible human beings that they are meant to be.

We "all" have a legal and a moral obligation to be the voice for a child that has been abused in any form. If you only even suspect that a child is being abused, please report your concerns.

If You Suspect Abuse call:

Alberta's Child Abuse Hotline is 1-800-387-5437

Kids Help Line is 1-888-668-6868

Children have no voices, we must be their voices and speak out.

By Maria B.




PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

TRULY HELPING THE NEEDY

We must not overlook those truly less fortunate in our midst. However, the problem with giving money to panhandlers is you can't be sure how your money will be used. Some who beg do very well, and make more money than those who work full-time who contribute to them.

There are, of course, several shelters and kitchens doing good work among the homeless and destitute in Edmonton East. None need go hungry. Those panhandlers who say they need money for food are not being forthright. There are numerous free food sources in Edmonton, from full meals to food banks. You can support these agencies financially (receiving a tax credit for your donation), knowing that the money will be used to help those in need. The agencies could offer their supporters cards with instructions (times and shelter locations places) for free meals that could be given to the panhandlers instead of money.

If you want to directly support those living on the streets, you should consider purchasing a copy of *Alberta Street News*. The paper, started as *Edmonton Street News* in 2003 by editor Linda Dumont, is now the only remaining publication of its type in the province.

Alberta Street News provides its vendors with the pride and dignity of worthwhile endeavour. They buy their copies of the monthly paper at 50 cents each for resale, receiving an average \$2 for each copy they sell. The profit is theirs. Some vendors stake out the same corner each month and have developed a regular clientele, while others move around the downtown core.

I support *Alberta Street News* because it provides a great alternative to panhandling, giving vendors the dignity of earning an income, while those purchasing the paper get good value by reading the articles about inner city and poverty issues.

What do you think?

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2011 Nasna Conference

The long journey home on board the Billing's, Montana Greyhound bus

I remember waiting in line to board the Billings Mont. Greyhound bus at about 10:00 p.m.. I saw this one lady in the line-up whom I saw boarding the St Louis bus for departure in Nashville, Tenn. We exchanged contact information. her name is Fawnd A S. I'm hoping that someone will read this story and to hopefully get in contact with her. I did try to phone her just this past spring of 2012. It was unfortunate that I wasn't able to get in contact with her. Fawnd is from Wasilla, Alaska. She had come from a long bus ride from the Arizona area, visiting family. Fawnd, like myself, just couldn't wait to arrive in Billings the early the next morning! We both needed the long awaited stop to get groomed and to get a change of clothing. The bus we boarded was a contracted tour bus. It was also half empty.

On the way to Billings, the bus took a break at Lings Café, 5401 - Walker Rd., Cheyenne, Wy. to drop off and pick up mail and packages. I was able to pick up an order of chicken fried rice. Once we all got back onto the bus, we all went back to sleep. It was the quietest trip ever while travelling home bound. You could hear a dime drop and only the engine from the bus moving and the rumble of the rigs and vehicles passing in the night.

I had a restless sleep because my head was resting on the metal and plastic siding on the side seat. I had no pillow with me. After that experience I will be carrying a travel pillow with me on any Greyhound bus trip I'll be going in the future!

I had the worst neck pain the next morning, when we arrived in Billings, Mont. I had neck pain all day Tues, Oct 18, 2011. When the passengers boarded the bus in Billings, Mont. at about 1:00p.m., I struggled to keep my eyes open. I was totally fatigued and exhausted from lack of sleep.



The bus eventually went through the Great Divide at half the required Km. limit. I was so deprived of sleep as we continued to move westward out of the State of Montana. Tuesday evening, as the sun was setting behind the horizon in the west that I was still in horrible pain. Although I was fortunate that I did have some Tylenol. I feared that it would only put me to sleep. I then forced by myself to eventually take a dose or two, and I was finally able to stay awake. The Tylenol was helping the neck pain but did not put me in a sleeping trance. The neck pain was even more painful with sleep deprivation.

Once the bus left the state of Montana, I totally lost track of direction as there was a bus transfer sometime in the late evening. I think it was in Medford near Portland, Oregon. I remember at this bus transfer for the Seattle, Wa., I had to move from my seat to the back of the bus, because a wheelchair bound disabled lady got on the bus. The Seattle bus transfer was filled to capacity. I went to the back of the bus and sat at one of the last three seats. There was a white male lying down on all three seats sleeping next to the washroom. I asked if the other 2 seats were taken.

The white male replied arrogantly, with a scowl on his face, saying 'No'. He opened his eyes and took one look at me, then said he wanted to sleep and told me to move somewhere else! The seat on the left side was occupied by his friend, a white male, and the seat next to him was empty but not for long. A young white woman asked if the seat was taken. The male next to her was flirting and appeared to be infatuated with this first contact of conversation and said, "St down." More conversation erupted with the two males, when the young white woman opened her lap top to connect to a movie she was going to watch.

I just went outside to where the bus driver was transferring luggage and I told him what happened.

He said, this is not going to happen and promptly marched back onto the bus. He said to the guy in the back seats had to sit together to make room for me.

I sat back in my seat, ignoring the scowls from the white male who had lost his comfortable place to sleep and had to sit up.

To be continued next issue
Photo and story by Andie W.L.

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Meals & Food Resources in Calgary

Drop-In Centre 1, 4th Avenue SE

All clients of The DI may access meal services. Meals and snacks are provided at no charge to anyone in need. Food service is offered on the 2nd Floor daily, 365 days a year. Clients who are unable to attend regular meal service due to work or school commitments, or other verifiable appointments can receive a bagged lunch. Bagged lunches can be arranged by request to any staff person, or through the Day Office located on the 2nd Floor.
Meal Schedules
Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.
Snack - 9:30 a.m.
Lunch - 12:00 p.m.
Snack-3:30 p.m.
Dinner- 6:00 p.m.

Center of Hope 420_9th Avenue SE

Free for clients
Open to public for small charge
Breakfast: \$2.50
Lunch: \$3.00
Dinner: \$4.50

Emergency Meals (24 & Under)

EXIT Community Outreach
117-7th Avenue SW, Calgary
403-262-9953
Sunday 1 :00 pm -5:00p.m.

Emergency Meals - Youth EXIT Youth Shelter

11216 Ave NE, Calgary
7 days/week - 4:00 pm - 9:00 p.m.

Community Supports

Streetlight - Youth for Christ
Parks at 10th ave & 1 st Street SE
Monday & Thursday

Emergency Meals

Alex Community Health Centre
Unit 101,1318 Centre Street NE
403-266-2622
Thursdays Only -10:30 a.m.

Food Bank

Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank
403-253-2055

Food Hamper

NeighbourLink Calgary
403-209-1930

Food Bank

Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank
403-253-2059

Food Bank

Calgary Poppy Fund and Veterans
Food Bank
Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Food Bank

Muslim Families Network Society: Halal Food
403-466-6367
www.MuslimFamiliesNetwork.com

Food Hamper

St. Edmund's Anglican Church
8336-34th Ave NW
Monday & Thursday
09:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Community Meals

Inn from the Cold
403-263-8384

Emergency Food

CUPS (Calgary Urban Project Society)
128-7th Avenue SE

Food Hamper & Meals

Feed the Hungry, St. Mary's Cathedral
Sunday Dinner
3:30 pm - 5:00 p.m.

Meals on the street outside City Hall

Calgary Street Church
Monday - 6:00pm,
Wednesday11:00a.m.
Friday - 6:00pm Sunday, 1:00 p.m.

Rob's Corner



There are more important things than money

More important things such as how well you do your job, rather than how much money you make. More important is how much you are committed to your job each and every day. More important is how well you get along with your employer

and co-workers. More important still is you should take pride in the type of work that you do so long as it is honest, legal and safe.

Rob's say of the day

I truly believe in street papers. I believe since the end of the Calgary Street Talk back in July 2010 it left a void in our community. Certain voices that you will

never hear from again. All those people who were committed to the paper now are gone. Those who otherwise would not have had a say in society. All those vendors for the most part took pride in and loved what they did and were true ambassadors of the paper.

Money, no money

I sell in Kensington, one of the richest parts of Calgary if not the richest area. People who shop, eat and drink here have money, lots of it, for the most part for those who don't, like me, it's pretty well an every-day struggle.

Just wanted to say I've seen a lot of changes in Kensington over the past 15 or so years. No one talks to one another unless they're in a group and are well known to each other. No one ever talks to strangers. No one ever says good day or good evening. Or good afternoon or how are you? When people pass or go to pass, not even an excuse me. Very rare to even hear a kind word spoken to a stranger. I witness this sort of behaviour on a daily basis. I'm not sure that I'm still on the planet either. Like I was kidnapped and brought to another world full of snobs.

Letter to the editor

Going into my third year selling yet another street paper from Edmonton. How grateful I am! When the Calgary street paper shut down almost two years ago I

was devastated. I was scared as hell!. And very nervous. What was I going to do? Thank you for Edmonton Street News and now Alberta Street News.

Smokers left hanging or not?

Smokers. There seems to be some kind of understanding between smokers and non smokers. Haven't seen any fist fights between smokers and non-smokers. I have gotten a few snarls from people as they walk by me while outside my favourite coffee shop drinking my coffee and having a smoke.

Another world.

It seems more and more in this day and age success is measure by your possessions, by how fat your pay check is or was, how you stand or where you sit on the social ladder. In today's world success is measure more and more on quantity rather than quality, commitment and pride or so it would seem.

Last say of the day

Don't see much hope for Calgary's homeless. I see an increase not a decrease, especially when you see the head lines like the Perfect Storm a recently published article in a local daily newspaper. Something about the rising rate of homelessness due to the booming economy.

THEIR STORY A Feature on Alberta Street News Vendors



Tim

Writers work within a fiction. What they write is an interpretation of facts, and the good ones can weave and blend those facts to create a story, an impression, a moral. Sometimes however, the moral of the story is so plain that it need not be created. In this case the moral is simple - what happened to Tim could happen to any of us.

He was born in 1949 and when a baby his family moved to Teslin, Yukon Territories. Tim's father was a meteorologist at a Royal Canadian Air Force base. When he was six they moved to Suffield in Southern Alberta, then an active military research centre. When he was 14 his family moved back to Edmonton, where he finished high school. The late sixties and early seventies were good times in Alberta, and he spent a few years wandering through the province, working in Banff and Jasper. When he got tired of rambling he came back to the University Alberta for a degree in geology.

With two friends he set up a geology consulting firm for the mining exploration industry. He didn't like office work, so spent most of his time on sites, traveling over much of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Northern B.C. and Alberta. Exploration geology is a complex and sophisticated knowledge business. Geologists use core samples along with electromagnetic analysis and other tools to attempt the creation of a 3D picture of what lies under the ground. Mining companies rely on their expertise to determine whether or not to explore in a particular area.

He worked as a field geologist for 13 years. Then one day, in Northern B.C., the helicopter that had just lifted him off a job site was hammered by side wind. The chopper spun out of control, and nose-dived into the mountain. The pilot was killed, and Tim was seriously injured, and spent three weeks in a coma. It took another three months before he could limp from the hospital. He wasn't physically capable of field work anymore. The company he had started and run folded. For a few years he continued as a consulting geologist, analyzing information gathered by clients or other geologists and preparing assessments.

After that he spent some time working in warehouses, then as a cook. It helped support him in a basement apartment and kept him independent until illness struck. An infection, caught too late, had spread into his bones and affected his hip and his ability to stand. He was in and out of hospital again for years.

Now over sixty, he lost his apartment and lives in a rooming house. Alberta Street News allows him some independence and provides some income. He likes the social aspect of selling. He picks up plastic flowers at the dollar store, and if the people who buy papers have small children, he makes them smile by giving them a flower. He doesn't pretend to have any pearls of wisdom to share. All you can do, he says, is keep on trying. Every morning is another day. Just like for all of us.

By Eric Rice